

THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC

Published Daily, except on Sundays and Public Holidays, at No. 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo. Price, Five Cents. Entered as Second-Class Matter, June 15, 1879, under Post Office No. 100, St. Louis, Mo. Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., of Special Delivery. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 10, 1918. Paid for by addressee. Second-Class Matter, Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., of Special Delivery. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 10, 1918. Paid for by addressee.

Subscription prices: In Advance, \$5.00 per Annum; In Advance, \$1.00 per Quarter; In Advance, \$0.25 per Month. Single Copies, 5 Cents. Foreign, 10 Cents. Postage paid by addressee.

Published by The St. Louis Republic, Inc., 100 N. 1st St., St. Louis, Mo.

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The life of a railway mail clerk is one in which constant attention to duty and readiness for duty is demanded, and in which there is a never-ending danger present while on duty. The hours are long and irregular, the deprivations consequent upon service of this nature are many. The mental and physical strain of the life is far beyond the average in governmental or other service. It may not fairly be denied that the salaries of these employees should at least reach the average paid for first-class clerical ability and faithfulness.

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In shutting off Puerto Rico's trade the United States Government would stand no less than a convicted hypocrite. Humanity, disinterested desire to improve the condition of Cuba, to free it and the other Caribbean islands from the oppression of Spanish rule were assigned by the United States as their motive for making war on Spain. Now at the very first chance the United States Government sets about establishing laws identical in principle and effect with those which it shed Spanish and American blood to abolish. It inflicts an injury on the island of Puerto Rico; proposes a law which discriminates to the detriment of the island and to the advantage of selfish private interests in the States.

This nation, with its history and its traditions, cannot afford to so stand before the world. It could better afford to suffer material damage from the result of its policy than to incur the stigma of inflicting such injury on the island of Puerto Rico. Free trade with Puerto Rico would not injure the United States, however. It might diminish the inordinate profits of a few tobacco and sugar manufacturers, but the people of the United States would be benefited. The tobacco and sugar manufacturers of the United States would still have the advantage of proximity to the market and cheapness of transportation. They should ask for no more.

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GERMANS AND IRISH AFTER BARTHOLOWT.

St. Louis Congressman's Speech on Wednesday Stirs Up a Hornet's Nest Here.

HE WIRES TO DR. PRETORIUS.

Declares That He Did Not Say the Germans Favor McKinley's Philippine Policy—Trying to Hedge.

Congressman Bartholdt's speech in Congress yesterday stirred up a hornet's nest of a speech in the city yesterday. And worst of all for the Congressman, many of those who denounced him in the future terms, have been his supporters in the past. Apparently Mr. Bartholdt was afflicted of his mistake, for he continued his speech in the city yesterday.

When the people of St. Louis read in the morning papers of the speech Mr. Bartholdt had made, his enemies rejoiced and his friends were amazed. The reports from special correspondents who heard his speech and the Associated Press reports all agreed practically as to the offensive language he used toward the Germans and his declaration that the German Republicans of St. Louis supported the administration's Philippine policy.

It is said that one of the first dispatches Mr. Bartholdt received was from Dr. Pretorius, editor of the Westliche Post, who wrote him that he was disappointed that the contents of his speech could not be stated, and that he had not been able to attend the speech. The speech was so full of errors that it was impossible to state it.

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